



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724  
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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Greg Wong

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: SJCOG 2000/01 FTIP Amendment No. 12**

We have completed our review of the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) Amendment No. 12 to its 2000/01 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) submitted by your letter dated August 7, 2001. The amendment was adopted by SJCOG on June 28, 2001, and modifies the I-5 Northbound Soundwall from Monte Diablo to Smith Canal project.

We have identified the I-5 Northbound Soundwall from Monte Diablo to Smith Canal project that is currently listed in the SJCOG 2000/01 FTIP, as well as the funding modification proposed in Amendment No. 12, to be funded with Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Furthermore, this project is listed as being funded with 100 percent Federal funding and no State or Local match is provided. This project does not meet the funding eligibility requirements of the STP as a 100 percent Federally funded project and must contain a non-Federal funding match. We are **conditionally approving** this project as part of Amendment No. 12, subject to the addition of a non-Federal match being added to this project in SJCOG's 2000/01 FTIP. The non-Federal match must be added to this project prior the obligation of funds.

We accept this SJCOG amendment in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that the amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative, comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The changes made to the program by this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This finding has been coordinated with the Region Nine office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 8, 1996, on single mode FTIP amendments.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of SJCOG's FTIP Amendment No. 12 into California's 2000/01 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Our review of the amendment indicated that the project data for the proposed program modifications have not been entered into the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS) database. Our approval of the State's FY 2000/01 to 2002/03 FSTIP on October 6, 2000, noted the importance of the California Department of Transportation continuing to work with the transportation planning agencies to ensure that CTIPS reflect complete and accurate data on programmed projects. We continue to believe that CTIPS, when used properly, offers a practical and effective programming tool for streamlining the programming process and enhancing the development and dissemination of program information. We recognize that unusual circumstances may occasionally arise that prohibit the entry of program data into the CTIPS database prior to the FSTIP modification request, however, we would expect the processing of amendments under these circumstances to be the exception rather than the rule. We encourage you to share our concerns regarding the lack of project information in CTIPS for these FSTIP amendments with the SJCOG. To minimize delays in the FSTIP Amendment approval process in those instances where the project data has not been entered into CTIPS, we encourage both Caltrans and the responsible regional planning agency to describe, in the request for the approval of the amendment, the circumstances that have prohibited the project data entry into the CTIPS database.

Sincerely,

*/s/Dennis A. Scovill*

For

Michael G. Ritchie

Division Administrator

cc:

SJCOG FTIP Binder w/ attachments

FSTIP Binder

FTA, Jerome Wiggins

EPA, Katina O'Connor

SJCOG

Caltrans:

Federal Resource, Dick Petrie

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